

EVERTON J. CONGER.

APRIL 21, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

MR. CALDERHEAD, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 14336.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 14336) granting an increase of pension to Everton J. Conger, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the officer named therein from \$30 to \$100 per month.

Everton J. Conger, the officer named in the bill, and now 70 years of age, served as second lieutenant in Company F, Eighth Ohio Infantry, from April 24, 1861, to August 18, 1861, when honorably discharged.

He again entered the service as captain of Company A, Third Virginia Cavalry, on December 23, 1861, and served as such until September 10, 1863, when discharged by reason of having been mustered into the service as major, First District of Columbia Cavalry, and served as such major and as lieutenant-colonel from the last-named date until February 8, 1865, when honorably discharged.

While captain of Company A, of the Third Virginia Cavalry, he was wounded in a skirmish near Catletts Station, Va., in October, 1862, and while lieutenant-colonel of the First District of Columbia Cavalry he was wounded at Roanoke Bridge in June, 1864, and he is now and has been since the date of his discharge a pensioner under the general law at \$30 per month on account of gunshot wounds of right hip, back, and right side, and saber wound of left hand.

When last examined, in September, 1875, the examining surgeons stated that the officer was wounded through the body 1 inch above the crest of the right ilium, the ball passing backward, striking the spinal column near the region of the scapular plexus, and was probably embedded in the bone; that the other ball entered an inch above the back of the hip, passing through the limb and coming out on the left of the spinal column, striking it in its course; that complete paralysis followed in each case and continued for some time; that the right leg had become numb and shrunken and subject to fits of extreme suffering of a neuralgic character.

The affidavit of the officer, filed with your committee, shows that in the fall of 1862 he was wounded by a ball entering between the hip and ribs on the right side, going back and downward to the sciatic plexus, lodging in the spine, where it still remains; that at the same time he received a severe saber wound of the left wrist and was left for dead upon the battlefield and captured by the enemy, retaken in the course of several weeks by the Union Army; that in the fall of 1864 he was wounded by a musket ball, which entered on the right and passed directly through the pelvis; that both wounds injured the spine and the sciatic nerve; that he has suffered constant pain ever since, his suffering and pain increasing with age; that owing to his paralyzed condition he had had and must have physical assistance in many ways; that heretofore this had been given to him by his wife, but of late, however, and from advanced years and the rheumatism of his wife, he needs other assistance; that at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln he was on special service by order of the War Department and at once entered on the pursuit of the assassins; that in command of a small detachment of soldiers he went down the Potomac River, landed at Aquia Creek, went across the Rappahannock River to Port Royal, where it was found Booth had crossed and was supposed to have gone to Bowling Green; that upon arrival at Bowling Green they found Booth had stopped on the way at the Garrett farm; that they returned to that place and Booth and Harold were captured by them; that taking from Booth's person such things as would be evidence of his identity, and leaving the body of Booth to be brought on later by the cavalry, he at once returned to Washington and made his report at once to the Secretary of War; that on the same night the detachment arrived with the body of Booth and Harold; that he is entirely and wholly dependent and has no means whatever for the support of himself and wife aside from the pension which he is now receiving.

Medical testimony filed with your committee shows that the fragments of the bones from the gunshot wounds were so disarranged that when union took place the great sacrosciatic notch was almost completely obliterated, thus causing pressure upon the great sciatic nerve; that this pressure caused partial motor paralysis of the right leg, together with great neuralgic pain in the same limb, which can be relieved only by large doses of morphine; that he is not able to lie down, and takes all the rest and sleep he gets by sitting in a chair; that his condition is such that he is unable to perform mental or physical labor; that it is but a question of time until he will become helpless, and that he requires the constant care of an attendant.

Other proof filed with your committee corroborates the above testimony, both as to the officer's physical and financial condition.

The statement of Hon. J. M. Dixon, who introduced the bill, also filed with your committee, sets forth that Judge Conger's war service entitles him to more than ordinary recognition; that to his personal knowledge he is helpless physically and financially, and that for the past forty years he has suffered agonies of body sufficient to entitle him to the relief sought in the bill.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended after the same shall have been amended as follows:

In line 8 strike out "one hundred" and insert "fifty."